



The LEADING LADY

by **GERALDINE BONNER**

Copyright by the TORRANCE HERALD CO.

THE STORY

PROLOGUE—While dependent over the enforced hiding of her fiancé, Jim Dallas, slayer in self-defense of Homer Parkinson, member of an influential family, Sybil Saunders, popular actress, is engaged to play Viola in a charity performance of "Twelfth Night" on Gull Island, on the Maine coast. In the company are Sybil's bosom friend, Anne Tracy; Anne's brother Joe, young waiter; and Aleck Stokes, an actor infatuated with Sybil.

CHAPTER I—After the play, which is a big hit, Wally Shine, official photographer, learns something of the jealousy, professional and otherwise, existing in the company.

CHAPTER II—Hugh Bassett, director of the play, and Anne Tracy's fiancé, tells Joe he has heard he is spying on Sybil in an effort to learn the whereabouts of Jim Dallas and earn the reward offered by the Parkinson family. The boy's denial is not convincing.

CHAPTER III—Joe Tracy is arranging for a vacation trip. To Anne he betrays his enmity toward Sybil. Stokes tells Sybil he has news of Jim Dallas and to secure the necessary privacy they arrange to meet in a small summer house near the main building.

CHAPTER IV—The sound of a pistol shot startles the assembled company. Investigation shows a revolver has been taken from a desk in the library. Flora Stokes' wife bursts in with the announcement that Sybil has been shot and her body carried off by the swift tide that races by the island.

CHAPTER V—Flora Stokes tells Bassett she saw Sybil shot but did not see the murderer. Bassett notifies the sheriff, Abel Williams. He arrives with Rawson, district attorney, and a man called Patrick. All the company is accounted for with the exception of Joe Tracy, presumably on his trip. Flora gives her evidence, and the authorities arrange so that no one can leave the island.

CHAPTER VI—Bassett is prepared for what he had to tell. During the long wait for the officers of the law his mind had been ranging over it, shaking bare from unnecessary detail the chain of events that had ended in murder. It was impossible to conceal the situation between Sybil and the Stokeses; he could not if he had wished it. A girl had been brutally done to death, a girl innocent of any evil intention, and his desire to bring her murderer to justice was as strong as either Williams' or Rawson's. And

room after the shot," said Rawson, "how did he behave?"

"He seemed all right. But I can't honestly say that I noticed him much."

"Oh, rubbish!" Williams made a rolling motion in the scoop of the big chair. "You can't suspect the man; he was in love with her. He didn't want to kill her, he wanted to keep her alive."

"Men do kill the women they love, especially when they can't get her."

"Yes, they do. I've known of such cases. But that's impulse. This was premeditated." The sheriff pointed at the revolver lying on the desk. "Some time today somebody located that gun, took it for a purpose—not to shoot seagulls as you thought, Mr. Bassett."

Rawson looked at the pistol.

"Premeditation, all right. Was there anybody in the outfit who didn't know you'd opened that drawer and found the revolver gone?"

"Stokes didn't know. He came in after I'd got through asking him if he'd seen any one just as we heard Mrs. Stokes' scream."

"At least she didn't," commented Williams.

"While you were running round at the Point the house was empty?"

"I think Mrs. Stokes was here all the time. I never saw her outside."

"Any of the others come up?"

"I'm not certain of all of them. I know Shine did; I sent him back to phone over to Halworth for the boats. And Stokes did; he came up for the electric torch when I was in here telephoning to you."

"Then neither of them knew the loss of the revolver had been discovered and they had plenty of opportunity to return it to the desk?"

Bassett nodded, and after a minute's cogitation Rawson went on:

"Doesn't it seem odd to you that no one saw Miss Saunders when she came back to the house?"

"No. They were all in their rooms, except Shine, who was down at the Point, and Mrs. Stokes, who was reading on the balcony. I asked her particularly if she'd noticed Sybil pass and she said no, she'd been interested in her book and wouldn't have noticed anybody."

"I'd give a good deal to know what Miss Saunders did in that time. I think it would let in some light."

"How so?"

Rawson narrowed his eyes in contemplation of an unfolding line of thought.

"Well, what took her out again to the Point after she's come in? She hadn't a good deal of time and she wanted to change her clothes before supper. It looks to me as if she met some one in the house, some one who wanted her to go down there with them."

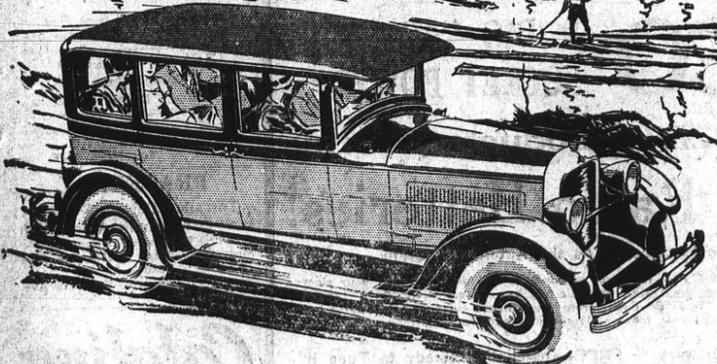
"Mrs. Cornell says she was alone."

"She might have started alone and gone to meet them."

"Then it couldn't have been Stokes," said Williams, "for Mr. Bassett says she wouldn't speak to him if she could help it."

(Continued on Page Six)

Gives you more power, beauty, safety, value



THIS luxurious Studebaker Custom Sedan gives you more for your money than any other car at anything like its low price.

Based on the ratings of the Society of Automotive Engineers, this is the world's most powerful sedan of its size and weight. So expect a new thrill when you drive it.

Enjoy its brilliant performance—see how slowly it will idle in high, how smoothly it accelerates, how flashing fast it is on the pick-up, how easily it cuts through traffic openings, skirts down the free stretches, climbs the steepest hills.

In addition to supremacy in power, this new Studebaker Custom Sedan gives you a new standard of safety—the safety of a full-vision steel body, fused by electricity into a unit, practically indestructible—positive mechanical 4-wheel-brakes, and the finest steering mechanism ever devised.

STUDEBAKER \$1335
Custom Sedan

Other Studebaker models \$1165 to \$2245.
Exline Six models \$995 and \$995. All prices f.o.b. factory, including front and rear bumpers and wheel-brakes.

Matching the custom beauty of its lacquered exterior is the custom luxury of its roomy interior—rich moiré, capeline brocade, Butler's finish hardware, silk curtains, iridescent dome light and deep, restful seats.

At its new low One-Price price the Studebaker Custom Sedan saves you money at the start and saves you money all the way, because its lighter steel construction is less wearing on tires and more sparing of gasoline—gives greater economy all 'round. Drive it today—without obligation.

EQUIPMENT—Nickel-plated bumper, front and rear; double ventilating windshield (exclusively Studebaker); full-size balloons; tire discs and positive acting four-wheel mechanical brakes; engine thermostat and hydrostatic gasoline gauge on daily two-beam across headlights, controlled from steering wheel; cow light and interior dome light; rear traffic signal light; automatic windshield cleaner and rear-vision mirror; oil filter; Alemite chassis lubrication; silk curtains; Butler's finish hardware.

REDONDO
350 Camino Real
Phone 5844

P. E. HENNIS

GARDENA
Palm and Menlo
Phone 1231

STUDEBAKER

[This is a Studebaker Year]

Free Help and Plans

To Our Customers

Over 180 photographs and floor plans of ideal homes in Southern California. Actual built homes with accurate costs—NOT estimates.

Let Us Help You

Haynes Lumber Co.

1752 Border Ave. Torrance Phone 61

Phone 88

Torrance Brick Company

Tapestry Shirvan Face Select Common Common

Manufacturers of Wire Cut Brick

Plaza Del Amo and Border Avenue
Torrance, California

"Everlasting Materials"

Plumbing That Pleases

If you're planning a new home or building, let us help you with your plumbing. Plumbing is changing rapidly, new and better ideas are constantly being developed, and we are keeping awake to them so we can help you.

Torrance Plumbing Co.

F. L. PARKS, Proprietor
Opposite P. O. 1418 Marcelina Ave. Phone 60-W

Plumbing and Sheet Metal Repairing

My Specialty is Repairing Quick Service—Dependable Work Prices Reasonable

V. L. ZUVER
1622 Amapola Ave., Torrance
Phone 331-W

TORRANCE ELECTRIC CO.

Electrical Contracting
Fixtures—Appliances
Wiring Supplies

1409 Marcelina Ave.
Phone 198-W Torrance

All Kinds of Jobbing Work
Phone Torrance 54-R

W. L. REEVE

General Contractor and Builder

Residences and Business Blocks
2108 Gramercy St., Torrance, Cal.

Carpenter Contractor Builder Designer

DICK MEEUWIG

1324 Sartori Ave.
Phone 174

Torrance, Calif. P. O. Box 504

FRANK SAMMONS

SAND and GRAVEL

1811 213th St.
Torrance
Phone 31-J

Build and Live in Torrance

Roomy, Small House in a Beautiful Setting

SEVEN ROOMS WELL ARRANGED

The white portland cement stucco on this surprisingly roomy bungalow harmonizes charmingly with its background of green foliage. The idea of wooded surroundings is enhanced by the clinging vines which are permitted to climb the columns forming the front porch. The location of this home, on a sloping corner in Lancaster Pa., permits landscaping that is indeed attractive.

Eighteen windows in seven rooms permit plenty of daylight. Many of these have the half-circle tops and iron grilles so typical of Spanish design. Two of the windows off the dining room are contained in a short wing, the gabled top of which breaks the roof lines pleasantly.

In the interior the entire left side of the house is occupied by four bedrooms, two of which have cross ventilation. The living room, just off the front entrance, contains a large fireplace and has a double entrance to the dining room. The kitchen is ideally situated adjacent to the dining room, and convenient to the rear entrance.

The use of permanent construction materials in this house cost very little more than would less durable construction and effectively reduced repair and maintenance expense for years to come.

Concrete masonry was used in foundation and above grade walls. (Either hollow block or concrete structural tile may be used.) Such construction forms hollow spaces in the wall which provides insulation to resist outside temperature changes. Thus the house is warm in winter and cool in summer.

The rough masonry units furnish an ideal backing for the stucco. These two—walls and stucco—are of almost identical materials and adhesion is perfect.

Such construction, topped with a roof of bright colored tile, makes this home at once fire-safe, permanent, and beautiful—a source of pride for the owner.

Window Cleaning Woodwork Cleaning Floor Waxing

New Residences a Specialty

VAN'S

Window Cleaning Service
2304 Gramercy Torrance
Phone 201-M

Phone 129 1738 Manuel Ave.
Torrance

JOE PETERSON

Builder and Contractor

Have two lots, two blocks of Torrance High School. Will build to suit.

One 5-room house, \$5000; \$500 down. One 7-room stucco, \$7000. Both on Manuel Ave.

F. J. Evans, Architect, Lancaster, Pa.

Torrance Wallpaper and Paint Company

1420 Marcelina Ave.
Torrance, Calif.
Phone 71-R Res. 120-W

E. N. Tomkins, Prop.

Painting, Tinting, Decorating and Paperhanging Estimates Furnished

John Holm

Contractor and Builder

Torrance Office
1418 Marcelina
Phone 60-W

Residence
2950 Redondo Blvd.
Lomita, California

EVANS AND CLARK

Cement Contractors

Growing With Torrance Since 1922

2064 228th St. Torrance
Phone 89-J

AMERICAN ELECTRIC COMPANY

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Office: 1324 Sartori Torrance
Phone 174

"Let Us Figure Your Job"

Homes Built and Financed 100%

The beautiful home pictured above has just been completed and is now ready for inspection.

Prices and Terms Reasonable

BETTER HOME BUILDERS

1318 Sartori Ave., Torrance. Phone 178

A House Is Not A Home Until It's Planted.

S. E. MERRILL

GRADUATE HORTICULTURIST

Landscape Designing and Planting

703 Cota Avenue
Phone 103-M, Torrance

Industrial Housing Corporation

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

of

Artistic Moderate Priced HOMES

We Will Build and Finance A Home to Your Individual Taste

We Also Have Several Attractive New Homes Nearly Completed To Be Sold on Easy Terms

OFFICES: Dominguez Land Company Bldg. Opposite P. E. Depot
Phone 5